

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 13

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 49

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to Job Corps students.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 5, 2013.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 13, Campos. Labor: Job Corps centers.

This measure would state that the Legislature supports the congressional action to reverse the suspension of new student enrollments in the Job Corps, to prevent any limits to student enrollment until other cost-saving measures have been exhausted, and to maintain the full range of educational and employment services provided by the Job Corps.

WHEREAS, The State of California serves the largest proportion of Job Corps students administered by the United States Department of Labor. Currently, there are seven Job Corps centers located in California in the Cities of Long Beach, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, and San Jose; and

WHEREAS, These seven Job Corps centers provide a vital piece of California's workforce development system by serving 5,373 disadvantaged youth between 16 and 24 years of age, inclusive, by providing high school diplomas and career technical education to young men and women, all of whom come from very low income households and are unemployed or underemployed; and

WHEREAS, In addition to academic and employment training, these Job Corps centers provide social skills training and other services to empower these young men and women to obtain and hold a job, enroll in advanced training, attend college, or enter the Armed Forces to defend the interests of the United States around the world; and

WHEREAS, Over 8,000 former dropouts have received fully accredited public high school diplomas at the Job Corps centers and thousands more unemployed youth have received career training and job placement assistance; and

WHEREAS, The young men and women who participate in the Job Corps gain entry level job skills for well-paying careers in construction, health care, culinary arts, security services, and other employment sectors vital to California's economy; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies demonstrate a significant economic gain from funds invested in dropout recovery by increasing employment, raising individual earnings, improving home and auto sales, increased job and economic growth, greater spending and investments, and tax revenues, and

significant reductions in health care costs, crime prevention and corrections expenditures, and other social services provided by California; and

WHEREAS, The National Job Corps Association reports that the combined economic activity stimulated by the Job Corps centers in California is two hundred forty-three million seven hundred twenty-six thousand five hundred nineteen dollars (\$243,726,519), and that 2,971 local jobs are created by the operation of the Job Corps centers in California; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Labor is entrusted to serve the disadvantaged youth in America. However, the United States Department of Labor recently decided to suspend all new student enrollments to Job Corps centers in California and throughout the 125 Job Corps centers serving the nation, which would prevent as many as 30,000 otherwise eligible young men and women from receiving diplomas and job training; and

WHEREAS, Recent decisions of the United States Department of Labor to implement a 93-day suspension of new student enrollment and a 21-percent reduction in funding for future enrollments appear to be inequitably balancing a budget shortfall on the backs of disadvantaged youth it is entrusted to serve when other alternatives are available for closing the shortfall; and

WHEREAS, Seventy-one members of the United States House of Representatives and 17 members of the United States Senate have sent a bipartisan letter asking Acting Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Labor, Seth D. Harris, to reverse the suspension of new student enrollments in order to protect the opportunities provided to the nation's most disadvantaged youth and to prevent further economic damage to the communities served by the Job Corps; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature supports the United States congressional action to reverse the suspension of new student enrollments in the Job Corps, to prevent any limits to student enrollment until other cost-saving measures have been exhausted, and to maintain the full range of educational and employment services provided by the Job Corps; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.